THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, February 15, 1802.

Of SHERBORNE CASTLE and ABBEY.

[Compiled chiefly from Dugdale's Baronage and Monaſticon, and Leland's Itinerary.]

THE town of Sherborne is of very high antiquity, and appears to have been a place of conſiderable importance many ages before the Norman conqueſt. It was made the ſee of a biſhop about the year 705, by Ina, King of the Weſt Saxons, who appointed Aldheim, his nephew, abbot of Malmſbury, and one of the moſt diſtinguiſhed ſcholars of his age, the firſt biſhop. The whole of the preſent dioceſes of Saliſbury, Bath and Wells, Briſtol, and Exeter, were under his juriſdiction.

Herman, the 26th biſhop, removed the ſee to Sarum, about the year 1075, but reſerved the caſtle and manor of Sherborne as a palace and retiring place for himſelf and ſucceſſors. Upon the death of Herman, William the Conqueror conferred this biſhopric upon Oſmund, Earl of Seez, in Normandy, who had been his chancellor and favourite, but, repenting of his paſt conduct, had now declined temporal honours, and devoted himſelf to a religious life.

This biſhop ſettled large revenues upon the churches of Sarum and Seez, to which he annexed this curſe, that whoever ſhould take theſe lands from the biſhoprics, ſhould be accurſed not only in this world but alſo in the world to come.—*See Spelman's Hiſtory of Sacrilege.*

This was, in thoſe ages, the common form of anathema, when lands were dedicated to religious uſes, and, like many others on ſimilar occaſions, would have been long ſince forgotten, but for the extraordinary misfortunes of the families which at different periods have been in poſſeſſion of theſe eſtates, when alienated from the church.

Oſmund was ſucceeded in the ſee of Sarum by Roger le Poure, who was a long time prime miniſter to King Henry the Firſt, and high juſticiary of the kingdom. This biſhop annexed the lands of Horton Abbey to the monaſtery of Sherborne, upon which he had conferred ſuch large eſtates and privileges, that he may be almoſt conſidered as a ſecond founder. He alſo entirely rebuilt the caſtle of Sherborne, which is deſcribed by Leland as one of the moſt perfect works, of that antiquity, remaining in his time, in England.*

Roger, with his two nephews, Alexander, biſhop of Lincoln, and Niget, biſhop of Ely, and Roger, his natural ſon, who was chancellor, falling under the diſpleaſure of King Stephen, A. D. 1139, were deprived of their immenſe wealth. Forty thouſand marks of the biſhop of Sarum's treaſure were ſeized in the caſtle of Devizes; at the ſame time the manor of Sherborne was taken from the biſhopric. The old biſhop was ſo affected with this change of his fortune, that he ſoon after died of a broken heart. During the immediately ſubſequent reigns, Sherborne appears to have continued in the crown, and was at different times committed to the charge of the Longſpes, Earls of Saliſbury, or of the ſheriffs for the county of Dorſet.

In the fourth of Edward the Third, (A. D. 1330), it was given, with the cuſtoms of Beer in Sherborne, to William Montacute, Earl of Saliſbury, in tail to himſelf and Katharine his wife. This earl died of bruiſes which he received in a tilting at Windſor, in the 17th (or 18th) of Edward the Third. He was ſucceeded by his eldeſt ſon, William, at that time only fifteen years of age, the ſecond earl of this family. He unfortunately ſlew his only ſon, Sir William Montacute, in a tilting at Windſor, the 6th of Auguſt, (ſixth of Richard the Second), and died, without

* Leland thus deſcribes this caſtle: "There be four great towers in the caſtle wall, whereof one is the gate-houſe. Every of them hath three lodgings in height. The great lodging is in the middle of the court, very ſtrong, and full of vaults. Biſhop Langton made a piece of work and lodging of ſtone at the weſt end of the hall. Other memorable piece of work was never ſet up ſince the firſt building. There lieth at the end of the caſtle (on the north ſide,) a mere." The other ſides were ſurrounded by a deep ditch, with a wall on the outer bank. In the civil wars, this fortreſs having been garriſoned for the king, was twice beſieged, once by the Earl of Bedford, when it was ſaved by the ſpirited conduct of his ſiſter, Lady Digby, and again by General Fairfax, 1645, when it ſurrendered, and was ſhortly after diſmantled by order of the parliament. Of the four great towers nothing now remains but the ruinated gate-houſe, and of the original ſtructure by Le Poure, and the addition by Biſhop Langton, nothing but broken arches, and mere fragments of walls. The lake has been long converted into fertile meadows. Le Poure alſo built the caſtles of Malmeſbury and Devizes: the latter was eſteemed the moſt beautiful and magnificent fortreſs in Europe.

without iſſue, in June, 1397, (twentieth of Richard the Second), having ſurvived all the firſt founders of the order of the garter.

In his time Sherborne was recovered to the ſee of Saliſbury, by Robert De Wyvil, then biſhop, by virtue of a writ of right. After the champions had entered the liſts (according to the uſual form of proceedings in ſuch caſes,) a mandate came from the king to defer the matter till a future day. In the mean time the parties entered into a compoſition, and the earl yielded up his title to the biſhop and his ſucceſſors for ever, for 2400 marks. From this time the biſhops of Saliſbury remained in quiet poſſeſſion of Sherborne till the reign of Edward the Sixth, when the protector, Duke of Somerſet, through his influence with the biſhop, obtained a long leaſe of it for himſelf, which he ſoon after conveyed to Sir John Horſey, Knt.

In the following reign, Biſhop Capon exhibited a bill in Chancery, ſtating, that the protector had compelled him to grant the leaſe by threats and menaces. Upon which, Nicholas Heath, Archbiſhop of York, then Lord Chancellor, decreed Sherborne to the biſhopric. After the death of Capon, A. D. 1558, it was held by his three immediate ſucceſſors, Jewell, Gueſt, and Piers; but, upon the promotion of Dr. Coldwell, A. D. 1588, it was again, by the artifice of Sir Walter Raleigh, irrecoverably torn away from the biſhopric.—In order to prevent the further alienation of the poſſeſſions of the church, it had been provided, by a ſtatute, 13 Eliz. 1570, that no ſpiritual perſon, college, or hoſpital, ſhould let or leaſe their lands for more than twenty-one years, or three lives, at the accuſtomed rent or more, payable yearly during the ſaid term. But this law had been ſo negligently drawn up (perhaps by deſign), that the avarice of the courtiers, not yet glutted with the rich ſpoils of the abbeys, ſoon found a way to evade it, and ſtrip the church of ſome of its faireſt poſſeſſions. As the crown had not been expreſsly declared incapable of receiving long leaſes of ſuch lands, ſome biſhops, in hopes of future favour, were induced by artful courtiers, to convey large eſtates to the crown, which they immediately begged for themſelves and heirs.

Thus Dr. Coldwell was forced to conſent to the alienation of Sherborne; before his election to the ſee of Saliſbury was confirmed paſt poſſibility of legal reverſing, Sir Walter Raleigh importuned him to paſs Sherborne to the crown: to this the biſhop reluctantly conſented, reſerving only a ſmall annual rent to himſelf and ſucceſſors. Sir Walter afterwards obtained this manor from the queen, but had little enjoyment of it, as he ſoon fell into diſgrace, and in the next reign loſt both his eſtate and his head. Biſhop Coldwell is ſaid alſo never to have enjoyed himſelf after this tranſaction, and to have died within a very few yea s, of a broken heart.

Upon the attainder of Sir Walter Raleigh, Sherborne again reverted to the crown, and Henry Prince of Wales, ſon of James the Firſt, begged it from his father, intending (as was ſuppoſed) to reſerve it for Lady Raleigh and her children. The prince died, not without ſuſpicion of poiſon, within a year after he had received it, when it was granted to Carr, Earl of Somerſet, who was by ſome ſuſpected of having been concerned in the prince's death, in order that he might gain poſſeſſion of this eſtate. After Carr's diſgrace, for the murder of Sir Thomas Overbury, Sherborne-caſtle and manor were forfeited to the crown, and ſhortly after ſold, or rather granted, for 10,000l. to Sir John Digby, (youngeſt ſon of Sir George Digby, of Coleſhill,) who was afterwards created Baron Digby, of Sherborne, and Earl of Briſtol. This earl died in exile, at Paris, A. D. 1652-3, and was buried in the Hugonots' burying-ground, in that city. His lady, who was the widow of Sir John Dive, of Bromham, was buried within the communion rails, in the church of Sherborne. Their eldeſt ſon, George Lord Digby, who ſucceeded to the eſtate and titles, married the Lady Anne Ruſſel, one of the daughters of Francis Earl of Bedford, and died, and was buried at Chelſea, A. D. 1676-7.

He was ſucceeded by his eldeſt ſon John, who died A. D. 1698, and is buried in the ſouth tranſept of Sherborne church, where a handſome monument has been erected to his memory; but, leaving no iſſue, by either of his wives, this family became extinct, and the caſtle and manor of Sherborne came into the poſſeſſion of William Lord Digby, of Geaſhill, in Ireland, great-great grandſon of Sir Robert Digby, of Coleſhill, in Warwickſhire, the elder brother of the firſt Earl of Briſtol.

William Lord Digby died at a very advanced age A. D. 1752, but will long live in the remembrance of the deſcendants of thoſe who witneſſed and experienced his extenſive goodneſs. The virtues of this GOOD LORD, as he has been juſtly called, may be ſaid to have turned the ancient curſe into a bleſſing, and proved a ſurer title to his poſterity than either the power of a Montacute or a Somerſet, the artifice of a Raleigh, or the villainy of a Carr, had been able to obtain. God viſits the ſins of the fathers upon the *children* of them that hate him, but ſhews mercy unto *thouſands* of them that love him and keep his commandments. It is worthy of remark, that the manor of Sherborne, when alienated from the church, has never continued in the poſſeſſion of any, except the preſent family, for more than three generations, and its owners have been ſingular inſtances of the inſtability of worldly greatneſs.

Of SHERBORNE ABBEY.

A convent of monks, of the order of St. Benedict, had been early eſtabliſhed at Sherborne, by the Weſt Saxon kings, in the place

place of fecular canons, who were governed by a prior, but acknowledged the biſhop as their ſuperior. Soon after the removal of the ſee to Sarum, Roger le Poure annexed the lands of Horton Abby to the church of Sherborne, and appointed Thurſtan, formerly prior, firſt abbot. This biſhop conferred ample privileges and eſtates upon the monaſtery, and probably rebuilt or very much improved the church. All that remains of the old church is of Norman Saxon architecture, the common ſtyle of building in the reigns of Henry the Firſt and Stephen. Soon after this time A. D. 1146, the abbot and monks appear, by a bull of Pope Eugenius, to have been poſſeſſed of the tything of Abbot's Fee, and other lands and privileges in Sherborne, with the church of St. Andrew, near the mill, and St. Mary, in Caſtleton; the churches of Stalbridge, Horton, Cnowlton, Chiſelbere, Oborne, Bradford, Halſtock, Corſcombe, Stoke, Lyme, Fleot, Lyttleham, Charſwell, and Cadwelli, in the dioceſe of St. Davids; the manors of Stalbridge, Weſton, Woborn, Thornford, Bradford Wyke, three Comptons, Stockland, Horton, Kingſton, Halſtock, Netherſtock, Corſcombe, Stoke, Bromleye, Laverſtock, Fleet, Bere and Seton, with their fiſheries and ſalt works, Littleham, Carſwell, and Lyme; the tythe of Bradford, Wyke, Woborn, Stalbridge, Charſwell, and Cadwelli; a tythe of the wine of the vineyard, and of the eels from the ponds belonging to the caſtle, with many other ſmaller poſſeſſions, privileges, and immunities, in different places.

According to Dugdale and Speed, the revenues of this monaſtery, at the diſſolution, were valued at 682l. 14s. 7¾d. per annum.

About the 14th of Henry the Sixth, 1436, in a diſpute between the monks and townſmen, the abbey church, except the chapel of our Lady and the porch, (a beautiful ſpecimen of Roman Saxon architecture), was almoſt deſtroyed by fire. The eaſt end was immediately rebuilt by William Bradforde, then abbot, who died October, 1459.

Peter Ramſam, the next abbot but one, built the weſt end of the church, and a chapel, dedicated to our lady of Bow, on the ſouth ſide of the old chapel of our Lady. A part of the old chapel, now the ſchool dining parlour, and a part alſo of Ramſam's chapel, now the ſchool parlour towards the church yard, are ſtill remaining.

The church, which was erected by theſe abbots, has been preſerved with great care by the inhabitants of the town, and affords a very fine ſpecimen of the highly ornamented ſtyle of building, which prevailed in the fifteenth century. The extreme length of this edifice from eaſt to weſt, is 207 feet; the breadth, at the tranſepts, 102 feet; the north and ſouth aiſles are each fifteen feet wide, and ſomewhat more than 24 feet high. The length of the nave is 182 feet; the breadth 32: the roof of the

nave,

nave, which is entirely vaulted with ſtone, is 109 feet high, and richly decorated (particularly at the weſt end), with ſhields of arms, with roſes, portcullifes, and a variety of devices. The arms of Cardinal Moreton, the initials and rebus of Biſhop Langton, and the initials of King Henry the Seventh and his Queen, (H. E.) connected with a lover's knot, fix the date of the weſt end of the building to the beginning of their reign. The initial of Ramſam's Chriſtian name, and his rebus, (a ſcroll with the word SAM, and a text P. incloſing a ram and croſier), are carved in many places upon the walls and roof of this part of the church.

Ramſam was elected abbot 1475, and died 1504.

John Meer, his immediate ſucceſſor, erected the tower over the conduit, which then ſtood in the cloiſter, on the north ſide of the church. The cloiſter had been built many years before by Abbot Frith, who was elected about the year 1349. The refectory, or dining hall, a large room extending the whole length of the weſt ſide of the cloiſter, was probably built about the ſame period. It is ſtill entire, but has been divided into three ſtories for the purpoſe of receiving machinery for throwing of ſilks, upon Sir Thomas Lombe's plan, and is now rented by Meſſrs. Burnet and Co. who employ a great number of hands in this buſineſs.

Very little remains of the buildings on the north and eaſt ſide of the cloiſter. The priory, an ancient pile of building adjoining to the north-eaſt angle, was for ſome time uſed as the pariſh workhouſe. It was taken down about the middle of the laſt century, and the ſite of it purchaſed by the governors of the grammar ſchool, to enlarge the maſter's garden.

John Barnſtaple, the ſucceſſor of Meer, ſurrendered this houſe to the king, and had a penſion aſſigned him, which he enjoyed for many years. The final ſubverſion of this once flouriſhing eſtabliſhment is recorded in the pariſh regiſter, (which begins November 1, 1538,) in theſe words: "Mar. 18, 1539, Expulſio monachorum de Sherborn."

At the diſſolution of religious houſes, about the year 1538, the ſite of the monaſtery, with a very large portion of the eſtates belonging to it in the neighbourhood of Sherborne, was granted by Henry the Eighth to Sir John Horſey, of Clifton Mabank, who had been one of the commiſſioners appointed by the king to viſit the monaſteries in Dorſet and Somerſet. He died 1546, and is buried in the north tranſept of Sherborne church; which he had ſold, immediately after the diſſolution of the monaſtery, to the vicar and inhabitants, by whom it was rendered parochial. After this time the other pariſh churches in the town were either ſold or ſuffered to fall to decay. His ſon, Sir John, who was ſheriff for the county the laſt of Mary, and perhaps the firſt of Elizabeth, is ſuppoſed to have granted the two chapels,

dedicated to our Lady, at the eaſt end of the church, and ſome ground adjoining, to the governors of Sherborne ſchool, (then newly erected by King Edward the Sixth), for the uſe of that eſtabliſhment. He probably removed the conduit, which was the abbey conduit, to the place where it now ſtands. Till lately his arms (viz. quarterly, one and four Horſey, two Turges, three Mabank,) remained painted in the center of the vaulted roof.

In the ſpace of a few years this family, once ſo opulent, fell into decay, and all their vaſt eſtates were diſperſed, either by long leaſes or ſale, into a great number of hands. All the ſite of the abbey, except what had been granted by Sir John Horſey and his ſon (Sir John), to the town and ſchool, is now the property of the lords of the manor, who, ſince the decline of the family, have purchaſed different parts of their eſtates.

During the reigns of Henry the Eighth and his children, the Horſeys, of Clifton, frequently repreſented the county of Dorſet in parliament, and were ſeveral times ſheriffs for the county.

A Sir John or Thomas Horſey was ſheriff the 29th, and a Sir John the 36th of Henry the Eighth. His ſucceſſor, Sir John, was ſheriff the laſt of Mary, and perhaps the 1ſt of Elizabeth. Another Sir John was ſheriff the 16th, John Horſey the 27th, and Ralph Horſey the 33d of Elizabeth.

The returns to parliament for the county are loſt during the whole reign of Henry the Eighth.

Sir John Horſey, Knt. repreſented the county during the reigns of Edward the Sixth and Mary.

John Horſey, Eſq. of Clifton, repreſented the county in the parliament at Weſtminſter, the 13th of Elizabeth; Ralph Horſey, the 28th, and again the 39th, with Sir Walter Raleigh.

ANECDOTES *of* M. OTTO.

M. Otto was born about 1759, at Alſace, on the borders of Germany. Of his education particular care was taken, for he appears to have been thoroughly initiated into thoſe branches of learning which are deemed moſt neceſſary for intellectual improvement. When he finiſhed his education, he applied to the ſtudy of the law, and ſoon arrived to a ſtate of diſtinction. Previous to the late revolution in France, he had been an advocate, and was employed by the old French government in an embaſſy to America. This ſhews their opinion of his diplomatic abilities; and he ſeems to have acquitted himſelf in that department to their approbation. The connection between France and America, at that period, was of a moſt important

portant kind, and therefore such an employment must have conferred on M. Otto no small portion of celebrity.

In the year 1791 he returned to France, and was appointed secretary for foreign affairs. Two years after he became secretary to Le Brun, then minister for foreign affairs, at the period when war was declared against Britain; and it is highly honourable to M. Otto, that he did every thing in his power to prevent a rupture with this country. On the destruction of the Brissotine party, he was dismissed, and lived in retirement near Paris. During the infamous reign of Robespierre he was imprisoned, but happily escaped the axe of the guillotine—under which fell some of the greatest characters in that country! When Sieyes was sent ambassador to Berlin, he was appointed charge d'affaires. Some time after, M. Otto was destined by the consular government to be its representative in England, for he is well acquainted with the English language. Ostensibly indeed he was only the agent for the prisoners: but he kept in his eye other matters of a more elevated kind—he wished for *peace*, and directed the whole energy of his mind to allay the passions of the two contending nations. This great object (which had, no doubt, occupied the attention of good men on both sides of the water for a considerable time) was at length happily effected. Preliminaries of peace were signed on the first day of October, 1801, in Downing-street; on the part of his majesty by Lord Hawkesbury, and by M. Otto on the part of the French government.

GENERAL REVIEW *of* POLITICS,

For January, 1802.

FRANCE.

THE official journal of December 21, announces, that the squadrons at Brest, L'Orient, and Rochefort, got under sail on the 14th of December, and the wind having been favourable the whole of the day, on the 15th no signal was any longer made of any vessel. The fleet consists of twenty-two ships, of which the following is a list:—French ships, L'Ocean, Le Jemappe, Le Cisalpine, Le Patriot, Le Mont Blanc, Le Taligny, Le J. J. Rousseau, Le Gaulois, Le Revolution, Le Denguesne, La Fureure, La Syrene, La Fraternite, La Precieuse, La Cigogne, La Decouverte, La Necessite; Spanish ships, the Warriors, the San Francis de Paule, the San Pablo, the Neptune, and the Solidad.

There are on board these ships, and the transports that accompany them, 25,000 men, well equipped. The Spanish General Gravina goes with the expedition, and it is said he is appointed governor of the Havannah. The Paris papers inform us also,

that the ſquadron fitted out in the Texel ſailed on the 16th of December. It is certain that the Rochefort and L'Orient diviſions put to ſea on the ſame day as the Breſt fleet. General Leclerc and the counſellor of ſtate Benezech, who are gone to St. Domingo, returned thanks before their departure, to the council of Bourdeaux, by which they had been complimented upon their reſpective appointments in the grand expedition. "To re-eſtabliſh a good adminiſtration in that colony," ſays Benezech, "give activity to cultivation, and protection to commerce, are the intentions of the government.

Intelligence from Lyons, dated the 30th of December, ſtates, that the joy of that city, at the proſpect of ſeeing the Chief Conſul is inexpreſſible. One hundred and fifty young men have, at their own expence, put themſelves in uniform, which is a blue jacket, yellow pantaloons, &c. On their colours is this inſcription, "The Lyoneſe to Bonaparte."

The hall deſtined for the ſitting of theconſulta is juſt finiſhed; it has a moſt majeſtic appearance; it is in an elliptical form, divided into two parts by a ſtraight line. There are fifteen rows of ſeats, riſing one above another, in an amphitheatrical form.

The Chief Conſul has directed a letter of the following purport to the members of the council-general of the department of the Seine, dated Paris, December 24, in anſwer to their propoſal of erecting a ſtatue to him.—He had ſeen with gratitude the ſentiments which animated the magiſtrates of the city of Paris. The idea of dedicating monuments to men who render themſelves uſeful to their country is honourable to nations. He accepted the offer of the monument which they wiſhed to raiſe to him. "Let the ſpot be marked out: but let us," ſays the Chief Conſul, "leave to future ages the taſk of conſtructing it, if they ſhall ratify the good opinion which you entertain of me."

In the ſitting of the tribunate of the 1ſt of January, the queſtion was put on the project of the legiſlative body, for the admiſſion of foreigners into France on terms reciprocal to thoſe on which Frenchmen ſhould be received in foreign countries. The project was rejected by a majority of 61 againſt 31. The inference to be drawn from this proceeding is, that foreigners will be admitted on the more enlarged ſyſtem adopted by the conſtituent aſſembly.

Intelligence has arrived from Lyons, that the Chief Conſul of France was arrived in that city, and that he was received by the people there with the utmoſt demonſtrations of joy.

GERMANY.

The acknowledgment of the King of Etruria, it is ſaid, will be deferred until the Grand Duke of Tuſcany ſhall be com-

pletely indemnified for the loſs of his ſtates, and of an annual revenue of 2,100,000 florins. The envoys of the Duke of Wurtemburgh, at the diet of the circle of Suabia, are returned to Stutguard, much diſcontented with the iſſue of the deliberations of that body. They propoſed to inveſtigate the conduct of thoſe deputies of the circle who commenced a negociation, in 1800, with General Moreau at Augſburgh; but the aſſembly would not enter on this affair, and paſſed to the order of the day. The Duke of Wurtemburgh is at preſent in a very unpleaſant ſituation. On one ſide, the Aulic Council of Vienna claims to be itſelf the judge of all the differences which exiſt between him and his ſtates; whilſt on the other, France preſſes for the re-eſtabliſhment in favour of the ſtates, by the conſtitution of 1792. Maſſiſs has returned to Stutgard, to terminate this object, whilſt M. de Portmaun, the duke's miniſter at Paris, labours to conclude a new treaty between his ſovereign and France favourable to the ſtates of the duchy.

EAST INDIES.

A diſpatch from the reſident of the Eaſt India Company at Amboyna, dated July 6, 1801, brings intelligence of the ſurrender of Ternate to the Britiſh arms, which was delivered over by capitulation to Colonel Burr, on the 21ſt of June. The Dutch governor made a moſt reſolute reſiſtance, having defended the place with uncommon firmneſs for fifty-two days, but at the expence of the poor inhabitants, who periſhed by famine from ten to twenty a day, from the Engliſh blockading by ſea and land. The value of the captured property taken by the ſquadron, amounts to a lack and fifty thouſand dollars.

The iſland of Ternate is the largeſt of the Moluccas.

AMERICA.

The ſeſſion of the United States was opened on the 8th of December, by a long and important communication from the preſident to the ſenate and repreſentatives, from which it appears, that the return of peace is likely to be attended with the greateſt bleſſings to this country, as well by the ſuppreſſion of all continental taxes whatever, as the augmentation of commerce. Its inhabitants have nearly doubled their number within the laſt ten years.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The important and anxiouſly wiſhed for definitive treaty is not yet concluded. May the time occupied in its ſettlement be ſo well employed, that the various and jarring intereſts of the different parties may be ſo well conſidered, as to produce the ineſtimable bleſſings of a permanent peace!

Lord

Lord Elgin, we find, had not ſet out for Egypt on the 25th of November, but the frigate which was to convey him, was ready for his reception. The object of Lord Elgin's voyage, is ſaid to be of a political nature, and that he is empowered to ſettle ſome differences which have ariſen between the Capitan Pacha and General Hutchinſon. It is ſtated, that this general has not only taken under his protection two fugitive beys, whom the capitan had ordered to be apprehended, but that he had farther demanded the enlargement of eight other beys, whom the Grand Vizier had ſent to Cairo, under a ſtrong eſcort, becauſe they not only refuſed to ſubmit to the authority of the Porte, which wiſhes to recover Egypt from the dominion of the beys, but alſo endeavoured to form a party in the army of the Grand Vizier. The Mamalukes at Alexandria having taken part with their leaders, the Capitan Pacha was obliged to ſend troops againſt them. An engagement took place; ſeven of the beys were killed on the ſpot, and two effected their eſcape to the camp of the Engliſh general.

The trials of the mutineers of the Bantry Bay ſquadron commenced on the 6th of January, at nine o'clock in the morning, on board his Majeſty's ſhip the Gladiator, at Portſmouth, and did not conclude till the 13th, when thirteen received ſentence of death. On the 15th of January, ſix of the mutineers were executed in Portſmouth harbour: the yellow flag, the ſignal for execution, was hoiſted on board the Temeraire, at Spithead; and by a few minutes after ten, the boats from the different ſhips were all aſſembled round the Formidable, the Temeraire, and the Vengeance, the veſſels appointed for the awful ſcene. At a quarter before eleven o'clock, Cheſterman, Fitzgerald, Collins, Mayfield, Ward, and Hillier, appeared on the quarter decks of the above veſſels, viz. four of them in the Temeraire, one in the Formidable, and one in the Vengeance. Theſe veſſels lay almoſt cloſe together. After a few minutes ſpent in prayer, about eleven o'clock the ſignal was given by the firing of a gun, when they were launched into eternity.

They all behaved with great fortitude. Cheſterman ſolicited the favour of a glaſs of wine, which he drank with great compoſure.

In conſequence of an order received on the 13th of January from the Admiralty, by the commander in chief at Portſmouth, a court-martial was held the next day on board his Majeſty's ſhip Gladiator, to try William Allen, Edward Taylor, George Comayne, George Dixon, James Riley, and Thomas Simmonds, ſeamen, belonging to his Majeſty's ſhip Temeraire, on charges of mutiny, &c. ſimilar to thoſe exhibited againſt the other priſoners. The proſecution was cloſed on the ſame afternoon, when the court adjourned till half paſt ten the next morning. The court met the next morning, according to their adjourn-

ment, and having humanely given time for their defence, they all, except Comayne, received ſentence of death. He is to receive two hundred laſhes. They have ſince been executed according to their ſentence.

Theſe unavoidable, though much to be lamented executions, will, we hope, render the repetition of ſuch acts of ſeverity long unneceſſary.

The LANGUAGE *of* BIRDS.

A STORY.

THE following amuſing ſtory was publiſhed by Dr. Johnſon in the courſe of his Idler, which appeared originally in a newſpaper, but when he collected theſe papers into volumes, he thought proper, but very unaccountably, to omit this paper, and it was conſequently loſt to the public, until, accidentally, the paper in which it appeared was diſcovered, and it ſeems amply deſerving of republication.

MANY naturaliſts are of opinion, that the animals which we commonly conſider as mute, have the power of imparting their thoughts to one another. That they can expreſs general ſenſations is very certain; every being that can utter ſounds, has a different voice for pleaſure and for pain. The hound informs his fellows when he ſcents his game; the hen calls her chickens to their food by her cluck, and drives them from danger by her ſcream.

Birds have the greateſt variety of notes; they have indeed a variety which ſeems almoſt ſufficient to make a ſpeech adequate to the purpoſes of a life, which is regulated by inſtinct, and can admit little change or improvement. To the cries of birds, curioſity or ſuperſtition has been always attentive; many have ſtudied the language of the feathered tribes, and ſome have boaſted that they underſtood it.

The moſt ſkilful or moſt confident interpreters of the ſylvan dialogues, have been commonly found among the philoſophers of the eaſt, in a country where the calmneſs of the air and the mildneſs of the ſeaſons allow the ſtudent to paſs a great part of the year in groves and bowers. But what may be done in one place by peculiar opportunities, may be performed in another by peculiar diligence. A ſhepherd of Bohemia has, by long abode in the foreſts, enabled himſelf to underſtand the voice of birds; at leaſt he relates with great confidence a ſtory, of which the credulity is leſs to be conſidered by the learned.

As

As I was ſitting, (ſaid he) within a hollow rock, and watching my ſheep that fed in the valley, I heard two vultures interchangeably crying on the ſummit of the cliff. Both voices were earneſt and deliberate. My curioſity prevailed over my care of my flock; I climbed ſlowly and ſilently from crag to crag, concealed among the ſhrubs, till I found a cavity where I might ſit and liſten without ſuffering, or giving diſturbance.

I ſoon perceived that my labour would be well repaid: for an old vulture was ſitting on a naked prominence, with her young about her, whom ſhe was inſtructing in the arts of a vulture's life, and preparing, by the laſt lecture, for their final diſmiſſion to the mountains and the ſkies.

My children, ſaid the old vulture, you will leſs want my inſtructions, becauſe you have had my practice before your eyes; you have ſeen me ſnatch from the farm the houſehold fowl; you have ſeen me ſeize the leveret in the buſh, and the kid in the paſture; you know how to fix your talons, and how to balance your flight when you are laden with your prey. But you remember the taſte of more delicious food; I have often regaled you with the fleſh of man. Tell us, ſaid the young vultures, where man may be found, and how he may be known; his fleſh is ſurely the natural food of a vulture. Why have you never brought a man in your talons to the neſt? He is too bulky, ſaid the mother; when we find a man we can only tear away his fleſh, and leave his bones upon the ground. Since man is ſo big, ſaid the young ones, how do you kill him? You are afraid of the wolf and the bear, by what power are vultures ſuperior to man? Is man more defenceleſs than a ſheep? We have not the ſtrength of a man, returned the mother, and I am ſometimes in doubt whether we have the ſubtilty; and the vultures would ſeldom feaſt upon his fleſh, had not nature, that devoted him to our uſes, infuſed into him a ferocity, which I have never obſerved in any other being that feeds upon the earth.

Two herds of men will often meet and ſhake the earth with noiſe, and fill the air with fire. When you hear noiſe and ſee fire, with flaſhes along the ground, haſten to the place with your ſwifteſt wing, for men are ſurely deſtroying one another; you will then find the ground ſmoking with blood, and covered with carcaſes, of which many are diſmembered and mangled for the convenience of the vulture. But when men have killed their prey, ſaid the pupil, why do they not eat it; When the wolf has killed a ſheep, he ſuffers not the vulture to touch it till he has ſatisfied himſelf. Is not man another kind of wolf? Man, ſaid the mother, is the only beaſt who kills that which he does not devour, and this quality makes him ſo much a benefactor to our ſpecies. If men kill our prey and lay it in our way, ſaid the young one, what need ſhall we have of labouring for ourſelves?

ſelves? Becauſe man will, ſometimes, replied the mother, remain for a long time quiet in his den. The old vultures will tell you when you are to watch his motions. When you ſee men in great numbers moving cloſe together, like a flight of ſtorks, you may conclude that they are hunting, and that you will ſoon revel in human blood.

But ſtill, ſaid the young one, I would gladly know the reaſon of this mutual ſlaughter. I could never kill what I could not eat. My child, ſaid the mother, this is a queſtion which I cannot anſwer, though I am reckoned the moſt ſubtile bird of the mountain. When I was young, I uſed frequently to viſit the aery of an old vulture, who dwelt upon the Carpathian rocks; he had made many obſervations; he knew the places that afforded prey round his habitation, as far in every direction as the ſtrongeſt wing can fly, between the riſing and the ſetting of the ſummer ſun; he had fed year after year on the entrails of men. His opinion was, that men had only the appearance of animal life, being really vegetables, with a power of motion; and that as the boughs of an oak are daſhed together by the ſtorm, that ſwine may fatten upon the falling acorns, ſo men are by ſome unaccountable power driven one againſt another, till they loſe their motion, that vultures may be fed. Others think they have obſerved ſomething of contrivance and policy among theſe miſchievous beings; and thoſe that hover more cloſely round them, pretend that there is, in every herd, one that gives directions to the reſt, and ſeems to be more eminently delighted with a wide carnage. What it is that entitles him to ſuch pre-eminence we know not; he is ſeldom the biggeſt or the ſwifteſt, but he ſhews by his eagerneſs and diligence that he is, more than any of the others, a friend to the vultures.

Account of the Life of Joſeph Warner, Eſq. an eminent Surgeon.

A Few months ſince died, at his houſe in Hatton Garden, Joſeph Warner, Eſq. F.R.S. and the oldeſt member of the court of examiners of the Royal College of Surgeons. This moſt reſpectable and valuable man was born in the iſland of Antigua, in the year 1717, on the family-eſtate, which he inherited, together with that *ring*, famous in hiſtory, which Queen Elizabeth had given to the Earl of Eſſex, and which, in the hour of impending danger, he entruſted to the Counteſs of Nottingham, to be delivered to her majeſty. It is well known that the earl was executed, and that the detention of the ring was acknowledged by the counteſs on her death-bed, and then reſtored to the agonized and enraged queen. The ring has for very many

many years, regularly deſcended, together with the eſtate, in the Warner family.

The ſubject of the preſent notice was ſent to England at an early age, and entered at Weſtminſter-ſchool, where he continued ſix or ſeven years, and became an excellent claſſical ſcholar. At the age of 17 he was put apprentice to that very celebrated ſurgeon, Samuel Sharpe, with whom he reſided ſeven years; he then was admitted joint lecturer in anatomy at St. Thomas's Hoſpital, with Mr. Sharpe, after whoſe reſignation Mr. Warner continued the lectures for a number of years.

In 1746, during the rebellion in Scotland, he volunteered his profeſſional ſervices, and joined the royal army under the Duke of Cumberland. In the courſe of that campaign, he was ſummoned to London, a vacancy having happened in the office of ſurgeon to Guy's Hoſpital, and he was elected. In this very important ſituation, which he held during the unuſually long period of forty-four years, he laboured aſſiduouſly and ſucceſsfully: whilſt he was employed in diſpenſing health to the numerous and afflicted objects, he was no leſs uſefully engaged in communicating his knowledge to the ſtudents, who came from all parts of the country for inſtruction. His labours in the public ſervice were, however, not confined to the wards and theatre of that noble hoſpital; as his valuable treatiſes on the cataract, on the hydrocele, &c. and as his ſtill more valuable volume of caſes, which has gone through ſeveral editions, amply teſtify. Mr. Warner's increaſing and juſtly merited fame ſoon introduced him to an extenſive practice amongſt the moſt reſpectable and wealthy families of the metropolis; and by his brethren he was allowed to rank with the firſt ornaments of the profeſſion. In 1756 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society, in whoſe tranſactions a number of his communications have been publiſhed. In 1764, he was elected a member of the court of aſſiſtants of the then corporation of ſurgeons, and in 1771, of the court of examiners, in which office he continued to diſcharge his duty moſt punctually, honourably, and uſefully, until the 2d day of the month on which he died.

His actual confinement by the laſt illneſs was very ſhort, as his corporeal frame was literally worn out; but all his ſenſes, and his underſtanding, continued, in an extraordinary degree, unimpaired to the end. This gave him the beſt opportunity of diſplaying that firmneſs of mind, for which, through his whole life, he was remarkable; for, although from the beginning, he was confident that he ſhould not recover, and indeed predicted within a few days of when his death would happen, yet his whole conduct was unembarraſſed, and he was even cheerful in the immediate proſpect of that great change for which he was ſo well prepared.

There

There are few ſituations in which an individual can be more eminently or extenſively uſeful to mankind, than in that of a phyſician or ſurgeon to one of the hoſpitals of this great metropolis; thoſe ſchools from whence anatomical, medical, and chirurgical knowledge is diſperſed over the world. That Mr. Warner has fully acquitted himſelf of his ſhare of this arduous but pleaſing duty, the preſent and future generations will gratefully acknowledge. In appreciating his merits in this reſpect, it ſhould not be forgotten that he was amongſt the early teachers of anatomy in this country, whoſe labours have greatly contributed to render London, at the preſent day, the firſt chirurgical ſchool in the world.

Mr. Warner's education and manly underſtanding qualified him for the beſt ſociety—he was a man of ſtrict integrity, and punctilioufly attentive to truth, even in ſmall matters; and his manners were thoſe of a poliſhed gentleman. One who was honoured with his friendſhip during the laſt nineteen years of his life, is deſirous of paying this ſmall but grateful tribute to the memory of a man in whoſe character nothing mean or little ever formed a part.

ANECDOTES.

WHEN Louis XIV. was travelling through his kingdom, it was the cuſtom for the mayors of towns through which he paſſed to harangue their ſovereign at the gate of the town, attended by the *eſchevins* (aldermen.) At Epernay, in Champagne, when the mayor begun his harangue, an *aſs*, loaded with apples, began, by the road-ſide, to bray. The mayor, who *only obſerved the monarch*—and the king, who *only heard the long-eared beaſt*, called out with a loud voice, "Silence that aſs!"—which ſo diſconcerted the magiſtrate, that he could not ſay a word; and the king got quit of the ceremony for that time, with plenty of food for the amuſement of himſelf and his courtiers.

A rich and ſprightly city widow, peſtered with letters of courtſhip by a certain tradeſman, to whom her jointure would be very convenient, he was ſo imprudent lately as to accuſe her before company of ill manners, in not anſwering his epiſtles.—"You can eaſily obviate the complaint," ſaid ſhe, "and have your revenge."—"How, Madam?"—"*By never more writing to me*," rejoined the widow.

ANCIENT METHODS *of* TRIAL.

THE moſt eaſy method of a criminal's proving his innocence, amongſt all the extraordinary methods of trial which prevailed anciently, ſeems to have been what Muratori ſtyles the *judicium panis & caſei*. If after the prieſt had bleſſed this very palatable food, the priſoner was able to ſwallow it, he was acquitted. There is an engraving in Montfaucon of a combat between a French gentleman and a dog, in the year 1371, which was expreſsly ordered by Charles V. of France, to determine whether the criminal had been guilty of murder. It is ſaid, that the perſon accuſed, being nearly ſtrangled by the dog, confeſſed his guilt.—Such methods of trial afford ſtriking ſpecimens of the Gothic barbarity of the darker ages.

CHARACTER *of* LEONARDO DA VINCI.

THIS artiſt was an Italian painter, deſcended from a noble family in Tuſcany, and born about the beginning of the ſixteenth century. In his profeſſion of hiſtory painting he was ſo great a maſter, that ſome affirmed he excelled all who went before him. It is certain, however, that a picture of his was lately knocked down by Mr. Chriſtie at the aſtoniſhing ſum of two thouſand five hundred pounds! It is likewiſe upon record, that he raiſed the envy of Michael Angelo, who was his contemporary; and that from the ſtudy of his works Raphael himſelf learned his beſt manner of deſigning. He was a maſter too in ſculpture and architecture, and ſkilful in anatomy, mathematics, and mechanics. The aqueduct, from the river Adda to Milan, is mentioned as a work of his contrivance. He had learned ſeveral languages, and was acquainted with the ſtudies of hiſtory, philoſophy, poetry, and muſic.

All who have written of him, mention likewiſe his perfection of body. The inſtances of his ſtrength are almoſt incredible. He is deſcribed to have been of a well-formed perſon, and a maſter of all genteel exerciſes. And laſtly, we are told, that his moral qualities were agreeable to his natural and intellectual endowments, and that he was of an honeſt and generous mind, adorned with great ſweetneſs of manners.

The fame of his works having gained him univerſal eſteem, he was invited to the court of France, where, after ſome time, he fell ſick; and Francis the Firſt, coming to ſee him, he raiſed himſelf in his bed to acknowledge the honour which was done him by that viſit. The king embraced him; and Leonardo fainting at the ſame inſtant, expired in the arms of that great monarch.

Anſwer, by J. Squance, of Exeter, to H. Humphreys's Charade, inſerted Dec. 14.

IT is a DUNNECK that you mean,
As in your charade's plainly ſeen.

*** We have received the like anſwer from Samuel Murch, of Exeter.

Anſwer, by R. Sowdon, of Exeter, to J. Tayler's Charade, inſerted December 14.

A MILK-PAIL, Sir, has often been
With rural laſſes on the green.

☞ We have received the like anſwer from G. H. near Bridport; John Whittle, of Upway; W. England, of Dorcheſter; W. Pollard, of Egloſbayle; A. L. of Poole; J. Squance, T. Whicker, and H. Humphreys, of Exeter; W. Bickham, jun. of Aſhburton; and R. Maffett, of Saltaſh.

Anſwer, by H. Humphreys, of Exeter, to E. T.'s Rebus, inſerted December 14.

THE parts combin'd a PARSONAGE is found,
Where piety and wiſdom ſhould abound.

☞ We have received the like anſwer from A. L. of Poole; and J. Squance, R. Sowdon, T. Whicker, W. Strong, and S. Murch, of Exeter.

A CHARADE, *by T. Whicker, of Exeter.*

SEE my firſt o'er hill and dale
Playful as the fanning gale;
When Sol rides into the weſt
Shepherds do my next adjuſt:
Sure it claims a Bloomfield's pen,
To pourtray my whole's fair ſcene.

A REBUS, *by E. Moon, of Exeter.*

A Foreign bird you'll firſt declare,
Whoſe plumes the ladies oft do wear,
When to my ſecond they repair;
A well-known tree you now muſt tell;
An hero who moſt nobly fell;
And next a meaſure known full well.
Theſe few initials will expound
A poet's name who's much renown'd.

A CHARADE, *by E. Penney, of Exeter.*

SOMETIMES my firſt is very good,
And ſometimes very bad;
Sometimes 'tis hot, ſometimes 'tis cold,
Sometimes it makes me ſad.
My ſecond is an uſeful thing,
Moſt houſes have it got,
From coſtly palaces of kings
Unto the lowly cot.
The two when join'd, I make no doubt,
An uſeful thing you will point out.

POETRY.

For the Weekly Entertainer.

The ADIEU.

A Long farewell, ye peaceful bowr's!
Ye rural ſcenes adieu!
Where all the joys of youthful hours
This penſive boſom knew.

Since fate has torn me from the grove,
And dear Lavinia's arms,
I ſigh away my hours in love,
And pine for abſent charms.

No more the murmuring ſtream I hear,
The whiſpering trees no more,
Or view thoſe ſcenes to mem'ry dear,
Around my cottage door.

On fancy's airy wing I ſtray
Along my native plain;
Methinks I hear Lavinia ſay,
"We'll never part again."

No more amid the wild retreat
The lover's numbers float;
No more the echoing vales repeat
My lute's melodious note.

My ſheep around my cottage wait,
Deceiv'd from day to day,
Nor dream, alas! how cruel fate
Has borne me far away.

O ſtay not, ſilent flock, in vain,
But ſeek Lavinia's fold;
She'll guard you on the wintry plain
From bleak December's cold.

When I behold the heavenly charms,
I now in hope adore,
I'll claſp them to my faithful arms
To part, ye gods! no more.

PALEMON.

SONNET, *by Mr.* SHERIDAN.

DRY be that tear, my gentleſt love,
Be huſh'd that ſtruggling ſigh,
Not ſeaſon's day, nor fate ſhall prove
More fix'd—more true than I!
Huſh'd be that ſigh, be dry that tear!
Ceaſe, boding doubt, ceaſe, anxious fear.

Aſk'ſt thou how long my vows ſhall ſtay
When all that's new is paſt?
How long—ah, Delia, can I ſay,
How long my life will laſt?
Dry be that tear, be huſh'd that ſigh,
At leaſt I'll love thee till I die!

And does that thought affect thee too,
The thought of Sylvio's death,
That he, who only breathes for you,
Muſt yield that faithful breath?
Huſh'd be that ſigh, be dry that tear,
Nor let us loſe our heaven here!

LOVE *and* TIME.

By the late Mrs. ROBINSON.

LOVE was a little blooming boy,
Fond, innocent, and true;
His ev'ry ſmile was fraught with joy,
And ev'ry joy was new.

'Till ſtealing from his mother's ſide,
The urchin loſt his way,
And wand'ring far o'er deſarts wide,
Thus weeping pour'd his lay:

"O Time! I'll dreſs thy locks of ſnow
"With wreaths of fragrant flowers,
"And all that rapture can beſtow
"Shall deck thy fleeting hours.

"But for one day, one little day,
"Thy wings in pity ſpare,
"That I may homeward bend my way,
"For all my wreaths are there."

Time, cheated by his tears and ſighs,
The wily god confeſt,
When ſoaring to his native ſkies,
He ſought his mother's breaſt.

Short was his bliſs, the treach'rous boy,
Was hurl'd from clime to clime,
And found, amidſt his proudeſt joy,
He'd ſtill the wings of time.

STANZAS *on* FRIENDSHIP.

TO ſmooth the rugged road of life,
And pleaſure with its ſorrows blend;
To conquer envy, wrath and ſtrife,
'Tis meet you chuſe a virtuous friend.

How

How hard amongſt earth's motley kind,
Throng'd with ſeducers, flatt'rers, cheats,
To meet an independent mind,
A heart untinctur'd with deceit.

Friendſhip on one ſhould reſt its choice,
Like love the flame no pow'r di-vides;
It ſpeaks thro' man with angel voice,
And in the pureſt heart reſides.

Seek then among the virtuous few,
A heart congenial to your own;
Will ſuch when found be always true,
One to ſelf-intereſt never prone?

Will he when four afflictions deep
Have ſtain'd your cheeks with pale diſtreſs;
Ah! will he then in concert weep,
And ſtrive to make your ſorrows leſs?

Will he when vile detraction gnaws,
And calumny attacks your fame,
With god-like juſtice plead your cauſe,
And ſave from guilt your injur'd name?

Will he when baſe uplifted pride,
Your humble merit views with ſcorn,
Still cleave to you, and virtue's ſide,
When cenſure points its ſharpeſt thorn?

Will he, 'midſt other ills of courſe,
When poverty aſſails your door,
Aſſiſtance yield, and ſhare his purſe,
Nor change from what he—ſeem'd before?

When ſickneſs points you to retire
From buſy ſcenes to ſeek the calm,
There will he, fearleſs, hopes inſpire,
And "miniſter the healing balm?"

And will he, when the ſtroke of death,
Shall ſever ev'ry earthly tie,
Attend to catch your parting breath,
To treaſure up your lateſt ſigh?

And ſhed a tear upon your grave,
Juſt tribute, ſacred friendſhip's due!
He that acts thus is gen'rous, brave,
And proves himſelf a friend, and true!

ADDRESS *to* HEALTH.

DAUGHTER of induſtry, fair health!
Thou greateſt bleſſing man enjoys;
Thou'rt not obtain'd by princely wealth,
By luxury, or revel noiſe.

To peaſants mean, to ruſtics rude,
Thou deign'ſt thy influence to impart;
By thee they earn their daily food,
Thy preſence cheers their gladſome heart.

See! on the bed of ſickneſs lies,
The man unfriended and forlorn;
Mark! how he rolls his haggard eyes,
His pallid frame with anguiſh torn.

To him would death a welcome prove,
A remedy for all his ills;
A life like his, ah! who could love,
But death his painful torture ſtills.

Then hail, fair health! thou goddeſs, hail!
From penury a ſure defence;
For what does luxury avail,
If e'er thy ſmiles are baniſh'd thence.

Lines occaſioned by the Deceaſe of an excellent Parent.

SUCH is life! I exclaim'd with a ſigh,
As I bade a lov'd father adieu,
When dull ſorrow be-clouded that eye
Which to mine ſpoke in ſympathy true.

Yet tho' ſad was the day, it was cheer'd
By the hope, that ere long I ſhould meet,
A dear parent, ſo juſtly rever'd,
And again enjoy intercourſe ſweet.

But 'tis paſt, and death's cold cruel hand,
Has bereft me of life's brighteſt ray;
The reflection a tear will demand,
Tho' kind faith forbids ſorrow to ſtay.

She points to the regions on high,
Where no anguiſh nor heart-rending care
Can intrude—but ſerene is the ſky,
And the proſpect's unclouded and fair!

EMMA.

The SYLPH.

NOT when in azure fields of air
The buſy pinions play,
Do I entreat thee, liſt the prayer,
Which muſt my grief betray:

Not when up-borne 'mid ſolar beams,
Undazzled with the light,
To gloomy groves, hoarſe murmuring ſtreams,
Do I recal thy flight:

But when in Delia's charms you live,
When hours like minutes flee,
Remind the fair a heart to give
For that ſhe ſtole from me!